

New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News, Editorials—Advertisements
Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1922

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Gains Harvested

The Washington conference is so near adjournment that it is possible to begin to assess the value of its work. It is already rated a great success.

The most important item is not the particular pledges which have been exchanged. It is rather the recognition of the principle of limitation.

For we have something new in human history—the acknowledgment that what any nation does in the way of military preparedness is the concern of all.

Of scarcely less value is the demonstration that progress comes from proceeding from the particular to the general, rather than from the general to the particular.

The Harding-Hughes method is exactly to the contrary. It has tackled definite evils, in the belief that as they are removed one by one a habit of concert will be established.

Another great imponderable has been in the successful use of publicity and a focussed world opinion on the business of an international conference.

In this review nothing is said of ratios or of self-denying ordinances like the four-power treaty, or even of the momentous illegality of submarines as commerce destroyers.

Progress and Postmasters

Postmaster General Hays now proposes to send newly appointed postmasters to school for a few months before they go to work.

In the old days the postmaster got his job because of what he had done for the party. Usually the small town postmaster put his wife or one of his relatives behind the letter boxes and concerned himself no further with the job except on pay day.

parcels post and postal savings have been added to the service, the importance of a thorough knowledge of the work by the man who must do it is steadily increasing.

A Year of Wonders

Governor Miller's message to the Legislature a year ago broke ground for a reorganization of the state government and a stabilization of its finances.

These are lean years for revenue. Indirect taxation will probably bring in only \$97,000,000 in 1922-23.

In order to deflate expenditure the cumbersome state machinery has been simplified. Many consolidations have been effected and much ancient leakage has been stopped.

Governor Miller's greatest service to the state has been in demolishing the old, tangled wasteful system at Albany and modernizing methods of administration there.

Believers and Skeptics

Dr. James H. Leuba, of Bryn Mawr, has sought by means of a statistical inquiry to throw light on the question of whether or not modern learning tends to undermine religious belief.

The method used was the questionnaire. In one of the leading colleges each student was questioned, in writing, as to his belief in immortality, signatures not being called for.

When we come to professional scientists and scholars, however, the percentage of non-believers becomes larger. Questionnaires on the belief in a personal God and in personal immortality were sent to one thousand persons chosen at random from Cattell's "American Men of Science."

Interesting is the comparison between the beliefs of the general run of persons listed in "Men of Science" and the beliefs of those persons "starred" in the book for special eminence.

personal immortality were 59 and 36 per cent. Moreover, similar results were obtained for standardized lists of historians, sociologists and psychologists.

Dr. Leuba feels that the essence of religious idealism can be preserved even without the belief in a God in direct personal relation with man and without the belief in a continuation of personal identity after death.

Clarifying the Treaty

The four-power treaty is to be clarified. Either by an exchange of notes or in a protocol the obscure language of Article I is to be interpreted to mean that the mainland of Japan is not included within the scope of the treaty.

This clears up a misunderstanding that for a time threatened the progress of the conference. How the American delegates ever accepted the interpretation that the Japanese homeland was covered by the treaty and why they failed to make their acceptance clear before the President precipitated the issue by declaring a different interpretation still remain mysteries.

Admiral Sims

An Estimate by a Brother Admiral of What the Nation Owe Him To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I beg leave to express my warm appreciation of the letter signed "Square Deal" that is published in The Tribune this morning.

The matter was so quickly rectified, however, shows the value of publicity in diplomatic negotiations. And the fact that the reasonable interpretation is placed upon the treaty removes the main argument against its ratification by the Senate.

The Path of Glory

America has no titles of nobility with which to reward brilliant public service. Even ex-Presidents become ordinary citizens at the expiration of their terms unless they happen to be elevated to the Supreme Court bench, like Mr. Justice Taft.

Now, however, matters are changed. A Cabinet minister, or a Senator, or a President, may not be granted a patent of nobility, or given of the corn lands, like Horatius, or permitted to wear a coronet on public occasions when other men must carry silk hats; but he can, and sometimes does, become the supreme authority in baseball or the general director or chief attorney of a powerful motion picture corporation.

How much greater, how much simpler, how much more the actual creations of the plain people are conferred by our sister nations across the sea! Your newly created lord is always at a disadvantage because somebody with an older title goes in to dinner ahead of him.

But these great positions as chief promoters of publicity may well be the be-all and the end-all of earthly ambition. At the ball game the distinguished man from public life who is a sort of super umpire has the most prominent box and ululating thousands rise to greet him as he steps into it.

The statesman who has been created grand goblin of the movies is pictured on the screen in a hundred thousand theaters being inducted into office, shaking hands with the president of the great film corporation, standing with Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford on the brink of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado or holding a match while Charlie Chaplin or Bill Hart lights a cigarette.

the fierce light that beats about the film, staying there just as long as the owners of the corporation will let him?

Fixing Responsibility

Taxicab operators, individuals or companies, derive a revenue from the use of the public streets. Their responsibility for damages to people who are injured or killed by their vehicles ought to be genuine.

People who use the streets ought to have some guaranty of personal safety, or at least of compensation for injuries. That is not now secured to them save in cases of privately owned cars, which are usually insured, and of large and responsible bus or taxi companies, which have visible assets.

The relation of the taxi owner to the public, so far as responsibility for injury is concerned, is much the same as the relation of the factory employer to his workmen.

Taxi owners may properly be asked to do the same thing by insuring in the state fund which was established by the workmen's compensation act.

Incidentally, taxi drivers would take far more care than they do at present and the toll taken by recklessly operated motor vehicles would be abated to a very appreciable extent.

ILLUSIONS

When I was very, very young And filled with youthful pessimism, I used to think that horns stung;

That people were inclined to schism; That troubles scratched; that clouds brought rain; That bulls did damage when they could;

That when my comrades caused me pain They did not do it for my good; That one who had an itching palm Would seek the earliest chance to show it—

The passing years have brought me calm, I do not think so now. I KNOW A LITTLE MORE.

Already there is mutiny among the customers. Casting all admonitions to the wind, H. J. wonders whether our initials proclaim us "First Follower of Volstead."

And A. C. J.'s announcement that Charles V. Rainwater is the newly elected president of the American Bottlers of Carbonated Beverages makes us almost forget our resolution to place an embargo on all such bits of merriment.

HARK, HARK, THE LARK! LOST—Shirt, between Hamilton and Central Ave., on Lark, man's, light colored. Main 6539. Rev. Ciegler—Albany Knickerbocker Press.

Governor Miller is in favor of more insane asylums near the metropolitan district, which leads Charles T. White, the indefatigable political reporter, to wonder whether he hasn't read the report of the Meyer Committee.

TO AN UNCERTAIN PARTY Lady, with the features Grecian, Prithee, think me not a bore; But I know your hair, now Titian, Used to be brunette before.

MERVIN L. LANE. AND FURTHERMORE—Lady with the manner winning, Fashions banish all conjecture; Now we know your underpinning Moorish is in architecture.

We'd like to make one thing perfectly clear before the rush hour platform crowds do their worst to us. "Leaps to Death in Subway Jam," or a similar legend about the account of our demise will cause needless anguish to our family and additional humiliation to the corpse.

Lament I bottled up my courage And put it on my hip; Started for the subway To take a little trip.

Dropped my nickel in the turnstile—(You finish it, F. F. V. I'm still weeping—had to change my clothes and everything.) A. S. 812.

After several years of onlooking during various diplomatic conferences we wonder more and more if there ever was a secret treaty that was really secret.

The Bad Taste Club salutes: "Hooray!" Its newest member, Fred Beauvais.

WILL ADJOIN IN PENROSE'S MEMORY—The Times. Moved and seconded by the gentlemen from New York.

Let the Freudians make the worst of it—and they never fail to—but since our accession to The Tower we have been obsessed by a dream in which we strive vainly to mount a horse while its recent and saturnine owner stands in the background, convulsed.

The Tower

HOMESICK Emeralds from Ophir; Diamonds from Brazil; Opals out of Hindustan with savage fire athrill;

Sandalwood from Java; Lavender and bay; Fragrant junk-borne cargoes from the Islands of Cathay; Balsam out of Canada; Attar of the rose;

"Irish peace," says Uncle Abimelech Bogardus, of Prekness, N. J., "is still a long ways off. Gosh, they ain't even been able to call this here Dail to order yet!"

Our compassion for Erin has been deplored intact to the account of the Celtic bard who, elating to sing of these perilous times, finds his stock of rhymes confronted by De Valera and Markievicz.

The Soviet and Polish armies seem to have severed relations, and Russia is about to sign up Finland for the regular spring war.

Bill Netch also has been moved to comment by recent international events. "If reports are true," he chuckles, "it looks like a Jappy New Year for Russia."

Books

By Percy Hammond

Mr. Joel Rinaldo, a thoughtful rest-tourist and psycho-analyst of Forty-first Street, has been scrutinizing the "reformers" in anxious disapproval, with the result that he writes a book. His schooling for the purpose may be regarded as extensive, since it has been conducted not only in his gay laboratory of food and dancing, but among the works of Freud, Jelliffe, Kempf, Clark and other psycho-analytic scientists.

For thirty years, Mr. Rinaldo says, he has studied this genus Homo in "the greatest metropolis in the world, where the classes mingle for pleasure and where the laws of caste and convention are forgotten or remembered only to the profit of the strong—in that speeding, dimly-defined half-world of the restaurant, theater and lighted streets, lying somewhere between the workshop and the home."

As a cure for these and other ailments too advanced to be mentioned outside a book Mr. Rinaldo prescribes the enchanted herbs of psycho-analysis. "It is our only hope," he concludes. Not the psycho-analysis of the amateur and dilettante, but that of trained and competent specialists. A psycho-analytic bureau for the healing of reformists, added to the Public Health Service, is one of his helpful suggestions.

Mythified by this phenomenon, Mr. Rinaldo consulted Dr. Freud and learned an explanation. He came to the conclusion that reformism is a specific psychic condition, a kind of mania to be diagnosed as "Meddling."

Meddlers

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Did the Senators who sent a message of sympathy to the National Congress of Hindustan use their official titles when they signed? If they did, it is about time we common citizens demand that Congress take notice of politicians who make capital out of other people's troubles.

Troy, N. Y., Jan. 2, 1922.

Wetness of Quebec

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I read with great interest in your Sunday issue "What Volstead Has Done to New Year's" by Arthur Chapman, and I cannot refrain from enlightening Mr. Chapman as to the "big talk stories about the huge amount of liquor brought into this country from Canada" being mostly "bunk."

I returned a week or so ago from the efficiently governed Canadian Province of Quebec.

Any time he has \$1,000 or \$5,000 that he wishes to invest in whisky or other liquors let his communicate with me, as the editor of The Tribune has my address, and I will take him, providing my expenses are paid, to Quebec and supply him with the full amount of it in booze.

Still, if we weren't face to face with a calendar, we'd say that the first half of our term of occupancy hadn't been so bad.



More Truth Than Poetry

By James J. Montague

Request Denied British exhibitors have asked for American films that are limited to one killing a reel.

We would do a lot to please our British cousins. They have sent us many quite exciting plays. We've been basking in the glamour of the English style of drammer.

None the less, their late request must be denied them. Though it makes us feel extremely base and mean; For our best known movie killers simply will not act in thrillers.

Mr. Fairbanks, in his playfulest of plays. Shoots a valet ere he rises from his bed. And, in dressing gown and slippers, fills the chef who's burned his kippers.

Old Bill Hart goes out and shoots the boys in bunches; He has got an automatic on each hip. And, when once he gets in action, often has the satisfaction Of removing thirty greasers at a clip.

We have watched him slay a whole platoon of bandits Who imagined that they had him in their clutch; And we know he'd be astonished If he ever were admonished That he drew his gun not wisely but too much.

We would gladly give the British what they ask for If we only had the power to decide. We would do our best to thrill 'em with a stirring Western film.

In which victims were not scattered far and wide; But a movie of the sort that they think proper Does not meet with our ideals.

If there are no killings in it at the rate of one a minute We could never get an actor for the part!

A Fellow Feeling Lloyd George succeeded with the Irish because he sympathized with them. Welsh children also have to learn Gaelic.

Better Still Henry Ford's suggestion that units of energy be employed instead of money is well enough, but we are at a loss to understand why he didn't suggest Ford parts.

Taking an Awful Chance Our advice to De Valera is not to get into any fight with the Irish. (Copyright by James J. Montague)

The Daily Performance (From The Boston Transcript) Days on which our distinguished guests at Washington do not cancel their reservations they engage passengers.

A Universal Feeling (From The Washington Star) Differences of language do not prevent people of all nations from thinking and talking the same way about burdensome taxation.